IT'S A HOT DAY, LIKE ALL THE REST. ALL TWO YEARS OF THEM.

TWO YEARS... AND THE MOTION PICTURE EPIC THAT TURNED INTO JUST ANOTHER COME-ON ISN'T EVEN A MEMORY...

...YEAH, I'M SURE I SEEN ONE OF YOUR FLICKS, YOU'RE BIG AT THE STAG PARTIES.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME AGAIN?

PAGE. KAREN PAGE.

LIKE ALL THE REST. EXCEPT THIS ONE HAS A SPECIAL GLOW TO IT. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU SELL YOUR SOUL.

THAT'S NO WAY TO THINK. GROW UP. IT'S THE EIGHTIES. YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO.

AND YOU HAVE TO DO IT...

LOOK. THIS IS WORTH SOMETHING.

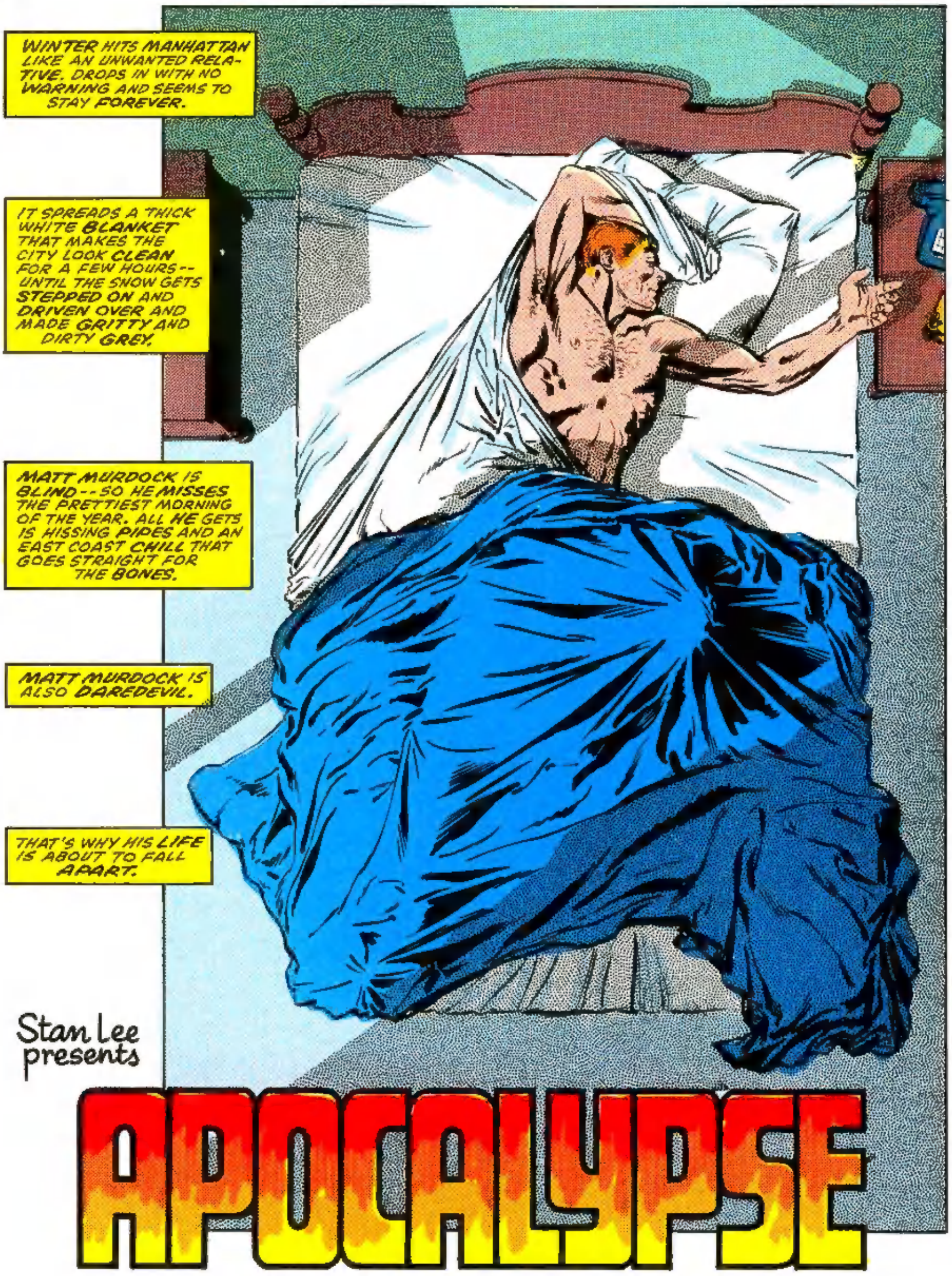
TAKE IT TO THE STATES AND YOU'LL GET A MILLION FOR IT.

GIRL WILL SAY LOTS WHEN SHE'S HUNGRY. THINGS I HEAR...

WANT A SHOT? NO, DIDN'T THINK SO -- NOT A SHOT OF BOOZE, ANYWAY...

DAREDEVIL, OKAY? I SAID IT. I SAID THE NAME.

AND HE'S GOT ANOTHER NAME. AND IT'S WRITTEN DOWN RIGHT HERE. YOU WANT IT OR NOT?


WINTER HITS MANHATTAN LIKE AN UNWANTED RELATIVE. DROPS IN WITH NO WARNING AND SEEMS TO STAY FOREVER.
IT SPREADS A THICK WHITE BLANKET THAT MAKES THE CITY LOOK CLEAN FOR A FEW HOURS -- UNTIL THE SNOW GETS STEPPED ON AND DRIVEN OVER AND MADE GRITTY AND DIRTY GREY.
MATT MURDOCK IS BLIND -- SO HE MISSES THE PRETTIEST MORNING OF THE YEAR. ALL HE GETS IS HISSING PIPES AND AN EAST COAST CHILL THAT GOES STRAIGHT FOR THE BONES.
MATT MURDOCK IS ALSO DAREDEVIL.
THAT'S WHY HIS LIFE IS ABOUT TO FALL APART.

Stan Lee presents

APOCALYPSE

By FRANK MILLER AND DAVID MAZZUCCHELLI

CHRISTIE SCHEELE
COLORS

JOE ROSEN
LETTERS

RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IT'S A SUB-POENA. DE-MANDING MY PRESENCE AT A GRAND JURY HEARING.

NOT AS A WITNESS.

ONE HOUR LATER, UPTOWN...

YOU'RE A DISEASE, MAWTHEW.

I'M RISKING MY STANDING JUST BY TALKING WITH YOU.

IF THE CHARGE HAD BEEN MADE BY ANY OTHER COP-- ANY OTHER, MAWTHEW--

--BUT NICHOLAS MANOLIS, TWENTY YEARS OF IMPECCABLE PERFORMANCE...

I KNOW HIS RECORD.

FAR BE IT FROM ME TO JUDGE YOU. BUT THIS IS A SWORN STATEMENT FROM LT. MANOLIS.

HE SAYS HE SAW YOU PAY A WITNESS TO PERJURE HIMSELF IN THAT HENDRICKS CASE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE NICK MANOLIS WOULD DO THIS-- NOT FOR ANYTHING...

WE NEVER HAD THIS CONVERSATION, MAWTHEW.

AND WHAT-EVER YOU DO-- DON'T HARASS MANOLIS. WOULDN'T BE GOOD FORM...

HAVE A NICE DAY.

DON'T PUSH IT...

NIGHT FALLS, TOO QUICKLY...

...SNOW'S GOT THE TRAFFIC ALL *SNARLED.* GOT HERE AS FAST AS I *COULD.*

Y'KNOW, YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOUR *DOOR* UNLOCKED LIKE THIS, GLORI.

IT'S NOT--

GLORI!

OH, *NO*...

TOOK *EVERYTHING,* FOGGY--CAME *HOME* AND THEY'D TAKEN *EVERYTHING*--

-- WHAT KIND OF *PEOPLE* WOULD *DO* THIS--

--*HATEFUL* CITY *HATEFUL*-- SCARES ME WORSE THAN *BELFAST* BOMBS AND *ALL*--

-- THEY RUINED MY *PICTURES* FOGGY WHAT KIND OF *PEOPLE*--

YOU'RE *SAFE,* GLORI. *THAT'S* WHAT COUNTS. COME ON...I'LL FIX YOU A CUP OF *COFFEE*...

--*NO* NOT *HERE*-- WITH EVERYTHING *BROKEN* AND SKEWED *AROUND*--

-- I CAN'T *STAY* HERE TONIGHT--

My name is BEN URICH. I'm a REPORTER.

I'm working the NIGHT SHIFT at a great metropolitan NEWSPAPER when a piece of DYNAMITE is dropped on my desk.

DAILY BUG

It's not the kind that HISSES. It just RUSTLES in Robertson's HAND...

CHECK THIS ONE *OUT* FOR ME, BEN.

SURE. I'VE GOT *NOTHING* BUT TIME.

It's disguised as an Associated Press WIRE--

--that says MATT MURDOCK faces a HOST of criminal charges, including BRIBERY, PERJURY, and MISCONDUCT.

MATT MURDOCK is the most HONEST man I KNOW.

MATT--BEN, I JUST *HEARD*--

"I have no statement for the press," a stranger tells me.

MATT--IF IT'S OFF THE *RECORD*--YOU KNOW YOU CAN *TRUST* ME...

A CHUCKLE, like DRY ICE cracking.

MATT--I'M YOUR *FRIEND*, REMEMBER?

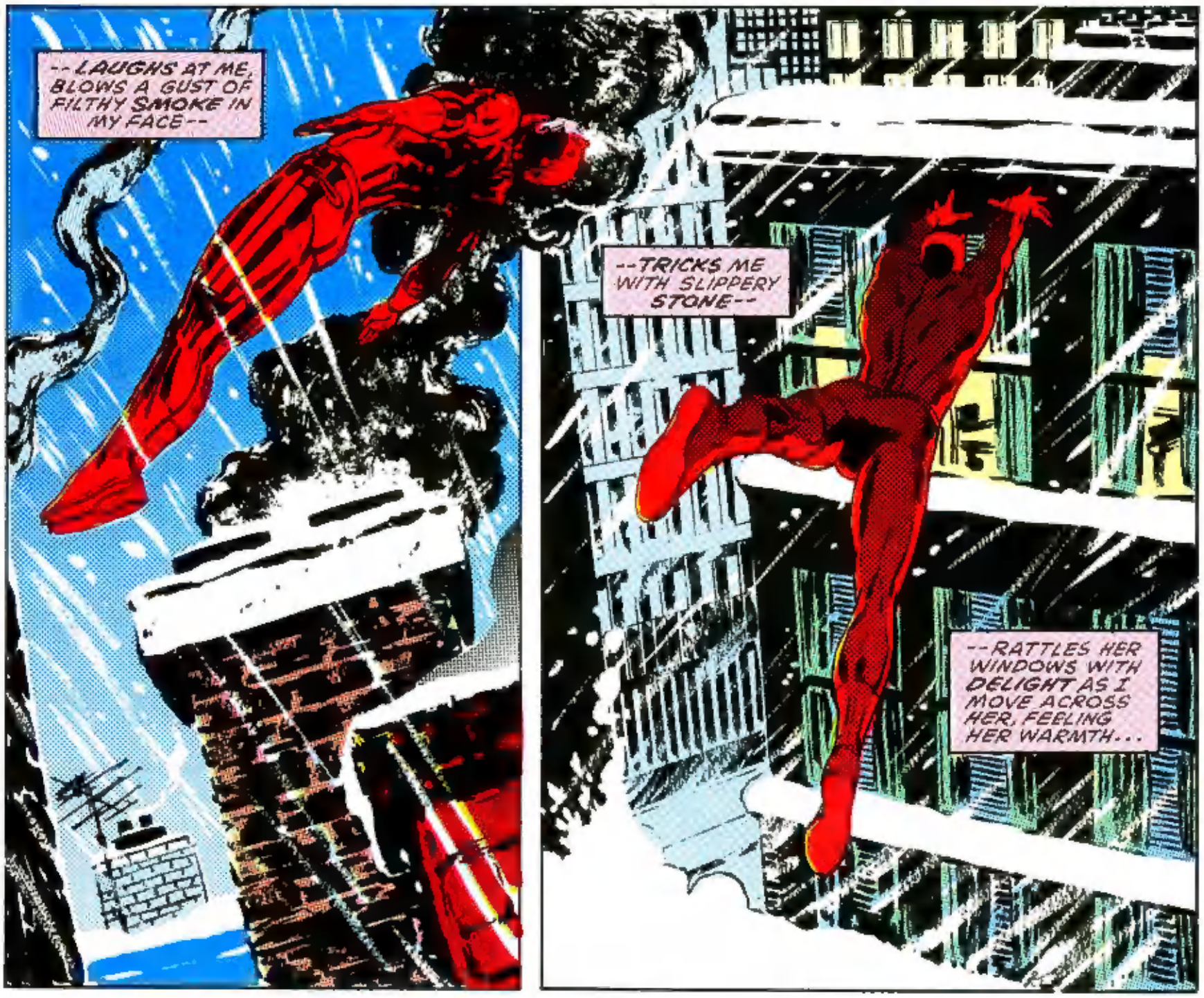
He LAUGHS. The line goes DEAD.

The LAUGH seems to ECHO through the office. I try to match it with the man who saved my LIFE.

I WORRY--not about his HONESTY...

SHE GREETS ME WITH A BLAST OF WIND AND HER ENDLESS, ANGRY ROAR.

SHE HUMS WITH POWER AND TICKLES MY LEGS WITH A THOUSAND FLIRTING FINGERS--


--LAUGHS AT ME, BLOWS A GUST OF FILTHY SMOKE IN MY FACE--
--TRICKS ME WITH SLIPPERY STONE--
--RATTLES HER WINDOWS WITH DELIGHT AS I MOVE ACROSS HER, FEELING HER WARMTH...

HE GOES ON--ABOUT HIS BOY AND HOW HE'LL SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT HIM TO SAY AT THE HEARING.

A SYMPHONIC VERSION OF THE THEME TO "KOJAK" IS GETTING INTO FULL SWING, SO I MISS THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE.

IT'S HARD TO STOMACH THE MUZAK OR NICK'S WHINING.

--SO I LEAVE HIM AT THE MERCY OF HIS GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

I'VE LEARNED THIS MUCH--SOMEBODY IS OUT TO GET MATT MURDOCK. SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS THE RIGHT BUTTONS TO PUSH WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE.

BUT WHO? AND WHY?

I GO HOME--MORE AND MORE IT FEELS LIKE THE ONLY SAFE PLACE--

--IT ISN'T UNTIL I TRY TO FIX DINNER THAT I REALIZE THE POWER'S OFF.

I TRY CON EDISON'S EMERGENCY NUMBER. MY PHONE'S BEEN DISCONNECTED.

IT'S BEEN A DAY.

THE NEXT FEW WEEKS GO **POORLY** FOR MATTHEW MURDOCK.

HE **WRITHES** LIKE A **FLY** IN A SPIDER'S **WEB**. MY WEB, THINKS THE **KINGPIN**...

...SO CAREFULLY WOVEN. SO NEATLY **PLACED**.

HIS PLANT AT THE **LAW LIBRARY** REPORTS TO THE CRIMELORD OF MURDOCK'S **DAYS** SPENT WORKING WITH HIS PARTNER BEYOND ALL FATIGUE, **STRIVING** TO FORM A **DEFENSE** AGAINST THE **PERFECT** FRAME...

...**PHOTOGRAPHS**, TAKEN BY **TELESCOPE**--FOR THE MAN'S **DEFENSES** ARE YET **UNKNOWN**--PROVIDE A STOP-MOTION **STUDY** OF MURDOCK'S DETERIORATION...

...MOST DELICIOUS ARE THE **NIGHTS**, AS LOW-LEVEL **STOOLIES**, LIKE DISTANT **NERVE ENDINGS**, TELL OF INCREASINGLY **VIOLENT**, INCREASINGLY **ABERRANT** ASSAULTS BY A **WARRIOR** WHOSE **FISTS** ARE NO HELP AGAINST THE CORROSIVE **GAS** THAT FILLS HIS LIFE...

...ASSAULTS WHICH CLIMAX IN AN **ENLIGHTENING** EPISODE.

IT HAPPENS IN A WATERFRONT **SALOON**--ONE HE **FREQUENTS** TO PRY **INFORMATION** FROM THE LOWEST ECHELON OF MY ORGANIZATION.

ONE HE ENTERS NOW AS AN ANGRY **BEGGAR**--WITH NO SENSE OF **CAUTION** OR **STRATEGY**--

--HE IS A LOST MAN, THRASHING...

MATT MURDOCK!

WHO'S GONNA TALK ABOUT MATT MURDOCK?

NO ONE TELLS HIM ANYTHING OF VALUE, NO ONE COULD, BUT I.

FOR I HAVE KEPT MY MOVEMENTS SCATTERED AMONG A DOZEN LIEUTENANTS, NONE OF WHOM POSSESS MORE THAN A SINGLE SCRAP OF INFORMATION.

I HAVE GIVEN THE WORD--FROM STILLSON TO KAREN PAGE--ALL WHO MIGHT KNOW WILL DIE.

DAREDEVIL IS MATTHEW MURDOCK --AND MORE--

--THERE IS A RIFT INSIDE HIM--A WEDGE --STEADILY WEAKENING HIS REASON--

--STEADILY DRIVING HIM INSANE.

THE HEARING IS MADE NOTEWORTHY BY THE PERFORMANCE OF FRANKLIN NELSON, WHOSE EYE FOR LEGAL DETAIL AND IMAGINATIVE USE OF PRECEDENT CAUSE ME TO MAKE A NOTE TO HAVE HIM HIRED.

THROUGH IT ALL, I AM TOLD, MURDOCK IS A GHOST--A SHELL OF A MAN...

...EVEN AS HE HEARS THE MUCH-TEMPERED VERDICT OF THE COURT THAT HE WILL NOT FACE A PRISON SENTENCE, AS I HAD PLANNED--

--THAT ALL HE WILL LOSE IS HIS LICENSE TO PRACTICE LAW...

...WHATEVER REACTIONS HE HAS ARE HIDDEN--EVEN, I SUSPECT, FROM HIMSELF.

HE FACES POVERTY AND PUBLIC SHAME. HE WILL BE HOUNDED BY DOCTORED TAX FILES, DEPRIVED OF HIS VERY HOME. SURVIVAL WILL BECOME HIS ONLY CONCERN.

PERHAPS I WILL HIRE HIM --WHAT IS LEFT OF HIM-- AFTER A TIME, AFTER HE HAS LEARNED HOW POWERLESS HE IS.

HIS TALENTS WOULD BE VALUABLE--AND HIS HONOR WILL CRUSH ITSELF.

HIS TALENT. YES. ANY MAN SO DEDICATED AS TO PRETEND TO BLINDNESS IN DAILY LIFE HAS SURELY DEVELOPED A RANGE OF METHODS AND TECHNIQUES THAT WOULD BE AN ASSET TO MY ENTERPRISES.

AN EFFICACIOUS OPPONENT. STILL HE INTRIGUES ME. STILL I AM NOT SATISFIED.

I SHOULD NOT TAMPER WITH THIS. I AM WELL POSITIONED. I SHOULD LEAVE HIM TO THE MISERY THAT AWAITS HIM.

I MUST DENY MYSELF THE EXQUISITE PLEASURE OF A KILLING STROKE...

I FEEL AWFUL, MATT... JUST AWFUL...

YOU WERE BRILLIANT, FOGGY. YOU KEPT ME OUT OF PRISON.

I HAVEN'T DONE MUCH TO DESERVE THIS KIND OF FRIENDSHIP...

--NEVER STOPS BEING HOT HERE BUT KAREN PAGE IS COLD -- SHAKING WITH COLD FROM HEAD TO FOOT--

--IT STREAKS ALONG HER ARMS AND LEGS AND HER STOMACH LURCHES LIKE AN AIRPLANE ENGINE STARTING--

--GOT NO MONEY BUT STILL HAVE SOME OF MY LOOKS LEFT--

--HE'D SAID THAT-- SAID I STILL HAVE SOME OF MY LOOKS --

--ENOUGH FOR--

--SOME OF MY LOOKS I'M JUST TWENTY-FIVE--

FUPP

SPAKK

--EVEN AS SHE RUNS SHE HATES HERSELF FOR THE NAME THAT COMES TO HER--

FUPP

SPAKK

--THE MAN WHO ALWAYS HELPED--

--MATT--